

**Title: Jesus Died For Me - Galatians 2 17-21**

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**Read:**

<sup>17-18</sup>Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan. <sup>19-21</sup>What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

**Think:**

Thank you Jesus that I don't have to be perfect. I don't know about you but I would find that pretty hard to do. I would probably fail ten times before I got out of bed let alone got to work, college or school. Of course you might be different but somehow I suspect you might be in the same boat as the rest of us Christians around the world. Like Paul says if we had to be perfect then why did Jesus die. I find it incredible that Jesus died for me and you. So incredible I want to cut this short today because I want you to spend a little longer on today's action.

**Pray:**

Father thank you that I do not need to be perfect because your Son died for me. Amen.

**Action:**

Find somewhere quite and sit down, close you eyes and just repeat to yourself "Jesus died for me." Sit there quietly for as long as you dare, quietly saying "Jesus died for me." Bye.